



Good News from Parks and Recreation December 2013



Parks and Recreation Resources

Parks and Recreation website: <http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/index.cfm>

Parks and Recreation Master Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/master_plan.cfm

Trail and Bikeway Plan - http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/trail_bikeway_master_plan.cfm

DNR 10/25 Parks and Trails Legacy Plan - <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/parks-trails-fund/plan>

Sign up for all **Parks and Recreation press releases** and other City announcements at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/>

- click the yellow button on the left that says "Subscribe via E-mail".

Like us on Facebook: see the blue Facebook icon on our website:

<http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/>

- or find us on Facebook at DuluthParksMN

Sign up for the City Twitter account at <http://www.duluthmn.gov/>

Find information about our beaches at <http://www.parkpointbeach.org/index.html>

Recreation and Special Events



Bentleyville Tour of Lights

NOW OPEN through January 4

Hours of Operation:

5:00-9:00PM

Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday

5:00-10:00PM

Friday | Saturday

Experience the magic of over 3 million lights illuminating Bayfront Festival Park located on the shores of Lake Superior during the Bentleyville Tour of Lights. The largest holiday light show in the Midwest comes to life every evening from Saturday, November 23rd through Saturday, January 4th. Bentleyville will be open from 5:00-10:00 PM Friday and Saturday and 5:00-9:00 PM Sunday-Thursday. Admission is free.

Bentleyville Tour of Lights is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization. **The community mission of this event is to raise non-perishable food items and new unwrapped toys for families in need. Bentleyville**

Tour of Lights is an official drop off site for the Salvation Army. Please make a donation. For more Bentleyville Tour of Lights information: www.bentleyvilleusa.org

Winter Skating Parties at the DECC



WINTER SKATING PARTIES
2013-14 • DULUTH, MINNESOTA

- ▶ Sunday, December 1 AMSOIL ARENA..... 3:00-5:00 PM
SKATE WITH THE BULLDOGS DAY!
- ▶ Sunday, December 22 DECC 3:00-5:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, January 26 DECC 3:00-5:00 PM
- ▶ Sunday, February 23 AMSOIL ARENA 3:00-5:00 PM

All Skating Parties are FREE!
Bring your own skates • No tag or skating fast
No chairs, sticks, pucks or shoes on the ice
Prizes for kids • Music provided
Kids 10 and under must be accompanied by an adult



It is time to get those ice skates sharpened and head down to the DECC for the annual Parks and Recreation skating parties. Join us for this great family-friendly event!

The skating parties will be held in the DECC Arena or the AMSOIL Arena.

Skaters can enjoy music provided by Shelly's Mobile Music Machine. Youth can enter for door prizes.

DECC concessions will also be open during this time period.

Skating parties are FREE and open to all ages. Kids under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

**** Participants need to bring their own skates.**

Free Open Skating at Heritage Sports Center

Free Open Skating at Heritage Sports Center



School Release Days:
12:30-3:30
Friday, Oct 18th
Tuesday, January 21st
Friday, May 16"

December Holiday Break:
Mon. 12/23 2-4
Thurs. 12/26 9:30-11:30
Fri. 12/27 9:30-11:30
Mon. 12/30 2-4
Tues. 12/31 2-4

Mid-Winter Holiday Break:
Feb. 17th - 21, M-F, 2-4

Spring Break:
April 7-11, M-F, 2-4

Summer KICK-OFF:
June 6th, Friday, 12-4

120 South 30th Avenue West
Sponsored by City of Duluth Parks and Recreation

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, 6:30 - 8:00
WHEN SCHOOL IS IN SESSION

* SPECIAL EVENTS TO HONOR HALLOWEEN, T-GIVING, CHRISTMAS, VALENTINES DAY, SPRING FLING



Recreation and Special Events cont.

Bayfront Skating Rink Opens Friday, December 27th

Bayfront Skating Rink will be opening December 27th – and will be open 7 days a week (weather permitting)! Once Bentleyville is moved out, it will revert back to its exquisite picturesque state, with a natural Winter Wonderland twist. Friday Bonfires, free hot-chocolate and snow-equipment available for quiet public use will be featured for the 4th season.

Parents and Pre-school Children Invited to Participate in Play Gym at Duluth Heights

Play Gym at Duluth Heights is alive and well! After a lull in Summer participants, in part due to our long-time Parent Lead, Sara Kramer, moving to Cambridge... and the subsequent moving-on of Ray Lopez (who generously stepped up to temporarily fill her shoes), the Super-Parent team of Hannah and Adam Johnston (both AmeriCorps Alumni) have graciously stepped up to keep the program open and running every Wednesday, from 9-11:30.

Trails Update

Duluth Traverse – Lester Park Section – Closed this Winter

The 3.2 mile section of the Duluth Traverse built by Progressive Trail Design in Lester Park is probably the most fun trail to rip on a fat bike in the area. Unfortunately, it won't be open to ride this winter. We would love to be able to open this trail for use, but unfortunately damage from bikers who disregarded the tape closing the trail and rode it in wet conditions won't allow us to. The damage occurred while the contractor was still responsible for the trail condition. They tried to fix the numerous ruts caused by the wet-weather riding but were unable to in the cold, wet weather conditions they were forced to deal with. As a result of this, they will have to fix this in the spring before the City of Duluth can officially sign-off on this project being complete. Since it's not a complete project, we can't officially open it and we'll have to wait until next spring. COGGS and the City would greatly appreciate everyone's respect for the trail closure next spring until the contractor can complete the repair and the trail is completely dry and ready for use.

Chester Park Ski Trail Bridge Update

Contractors have been busy working on the abutments on the replacement ski trail bridge in Chester Park. Plans call for the bridge itself to be set into within the next month.

Heavy Snow Falls Means Groomed Cross Country Ski Trails

With more than twenty inches of snow falling in Duluth, the ski trail system is rapidly opening. Hartley and Piedmont were the first to be groomed, followed by Magney and Spirit. Lester will follow after many downed trees from the big storm can be cleared. For all trail updates, call the Trails Hotline at 218-730-4321.

New On- and Off-Road Bicycle Route Map Presented to City Council

The new on and off-road bicycle route map was presented to City Council on December 5th. To see the map or for more information go to: <http://www.dsmic.org/Default.asp?PageID=339>. The City of Duluth and the Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council (MIC) have been gathering ideas and insights from area bicyclists to create a safe and connected urban bikeway system that will include new bike lanes along selected routes throughout the city.

New Information Kiosks along Lakewalk Commemorate Duluth's Waterfront History

The Friends of the Lakewalk, in partnership with the City of Duluth, is pleased to announce the installation of three new information kiosks along the Duluth Lakewalk. The first, commemorating the shipwreck of the Mataafa in 1905, is located along the Lakewalk as you approach the Duluth Shipping Canal. The kiosk tells the tragic story of the Mataafa which floundered at the Duluth Shipping Canal in a November storm that included gale-force winds, ice, freezing temperatures and difficult currents. Nine sailors lost their lives that night as Duluthians looked on in horror, unable to mount a rescue owing to the heavy seas.

Two additional kiosks tell the story of the creation of the beautiful Image Wall at Lake Place Park. Not only do the mosaic images tell the story of Duluth's waterfront history, they beautify what would otherwise have been a dull concrete wall. The wall was necessary as Interstate 35 was constructed through Duluth. The Mosaics are a testament to both the maritime history of Duluth and the creativity of the architects, artists and others involved in the project.

These three new information kiosks are part of an ongoing project to enhance the cultural and historical value of the Duluth Lakewalk which is frequented by residents and millions of tourists at all times of the year. Future information kiosks will feature Tischer Creek and Glensheen, the Lakeside Business District, and other landmarks along the Lakewalk from Canal Park to Brighton Beach.

This project is supported with funding from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation through the City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Department grants program.

The Friends of the Lakewalk is a private non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting and improving the Duluth Lakewalk. For more information about the kiosks, or for membership information, contact Andrea Agar, President at: fotlduluth@gmail.com

12 Organizations Receive Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants

There were 26 applications submitted for the Fall Parks Fund Neighborhood Grants, requesting \$115,736. As is common in most grant situations, the needs far exceed the available funding. Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce the following 12 organizations were awarded grants totaling \$56,000:

Organization	Program Name	Grant Amt
Chester Bowl Improvement Club	Chester Bowl Youth Programming Improvements	\$4,500
Courage Center Duluth	Mobility Mat Project	\$3,000
Cyclists of Gitchee Gumme Shores	Duluth Multi-Use Trail Improvements and Construction	\$5,000
Duluth Area Horse Trail Alliance	Master Equestrian Trail Plan for Western Duluth	\$5,000
Hartley Nature Center	Year-Round Environmental Education Classroom	\$5,000
Healthy Duluth Area Coalition	Cycle Aid Station Project	\$5,000
Lincoln Park Business Group	Cross City Trail	\$5,000
Park Point Community Club	Lafayette Summer Youth Program	\$3,500
Valley Youth Center	Memorial Park Ice Rink	\$5,000
Woodland Hills	Winter Warmth	\$5,000
YMCA of Duluth	Tot-Time Upgrades	\$5,000
Youth of Duluth	Study Ball Program	\$5,000

Senior Services and Events

For more information about senior recreation activities, contact (218) 730-4310

Evergreen Senior Center - 5830 Grand Ave

- AARP Defensive Driving Classes
- Refreshers: December - Tuesday 17th, 1-5 pm
- Bingo - Thursdays at 12:30 pm

Portman Community Recreation Center - 4601 McCulloch St

- AARP Defensive Driving Classes
- Refreshers: December - Thursday 19th, 1-5 pm
- Bingo - Mondays and Fridays at 12:30 pm

Morgan Park Community Recreation Center – 1242 88th Ave W

2013 Holiday Banquet and Bentleyville Tour of Lights



Nearly 270 people enjoyed a fun evening on Tuesday, December 11th at the 26th annual Parks and Recreation “Holiday Banquet.” The event features a “Virtual Tour of Bentleyville” by photographer Dennis O’Hara, a delicious turkey dinner, entertainment, door prizes, and a sing along.

Volunteer Events and Information

Duluth Invasive Species Council

*Working to educate the community, to eradicate invasive plant populations,
and to restore habitats to their native roots.*

Individuals interested in getting involved in the Duluth Invasive Species Council are encouraged to email Cheryl Skafte at cskafte@duluthmn.gov to learn more. Volunteers are currently needed to help develop community education materials and signage.

Clean and Green

Keeping Duluth beautiful through clean-up and green-up projects.

Efforts to organize Clean and Green 2014 will soon be under way. Start thinking about spring by signing your family, organization or group up for a clean-up! Email Cheryl Skafte at cskafte@duluthmn.gov for more information.

Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Chester Bowl Downhill Skiing

Located in the heart of Duluth at 1800 East Skyline Parkway, Chester Bowl Ski Hill offers a wide variety of downhill skiing experiences. Daily lift tickets for all ages are \$5.25/per day. Besides being affordable, Chester Bowl is a great place to learn how to downhill ski for people of all ages. For more information go to <http://www.chesterbowl.org>

Cross-Country Ski Trails

Chester Bowl Ski Trail

(Skate/Classic)

Access: 1800 E Skyline Parkway

Length: 2.8K

Level of Difficulty: Advanced

Hartley Ski Trail

(Double Tracked Classic)

Access: 3001 Woodland Ave

Length: 5.3K

Level of Difficulty: Intermediate

Lester-Amity Ski Trail

(Skate/Classic)

Access: lower Seven Bridges Rd or
E Superior St & Lester River Rd

Length: 11K/4.3K Lighted Ski Trail

Level of Difficulty: Beginner to
Advanced

Lester Park Golf Course

(Skate/ Skijoring)

Access: 1860 Lester River Rd

Length: 4K

Level of Difficulty: Beginner

Magney-Snively Ski Trail

(Skate/ Classic)

Access: 9758 W Skyline Parkway

Length: 13.2K

Level of Difficulty: Intermediate to
Advanced

Piedmont Ski Trail

(1K Skate/Classic; 4.5K Double
Tracked Classic)

Access: 2225 Hutchinson Rd

Length: 1K/4.5K

Level of Difficulty: Beginner to
Advanced

Spirit Mountain Ski Trail

(Skate/Classic; does not require a DNR
Ski Pass)

Access: 9758 W Skyline Parkway

Length: 16.7K/1K Lighted Ski Trail

Level of Difficulty: Beginner to
Advanced

*Visit spiritmt.com for maps and more
information on winter sport activities.*

For more information, call the City of Duluth Winter Ski Trail Hotline at (218) 730-4321. Or visit duluthxc.com for ski trail maps, grooming updates and calendar of events. A Minnesota Ski Pass (\$6/daily or \$20/annual) is required for skiers age 16+ on City of Duluth ski trails. Get your pass by calling 888-665-4236 or online at dnr.state.mn.us/licenses/skipass/index.html. Passes are also available at any DNR license outlet.

Ice Skating Rinks

Visit the City of Duluth website for an interactive map of the skating rinks:

http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/skating_rinks/index.cfm

Snowmobile Trails

For more snowmobile trail information and maps, visit www.snowmobiletrails.com/local.htm

Duluth Cross Town Trail - West Section – 33 miles

Trail access at Hwy 23 and 131st Avenue West or Grand Avenue and 72nd Avenue West

Maintained by Over the Hill Night Riders Snowmobile Club

Duluth Cross Town Trail - East Section – 2 miles

Trail access at 61st Avenue East and Lester River Road

Maintained by Drift Toppers Snowmobile Club

Take a Hike! On Duluth's City Trails

- Chester Park Trails - 1800 East Skyline Parkway
- Congdon Park Trails - 32nd Ave East and Superior Street
- Grassy Point Trail - end of Leisure Street
- Hartley Park Trails - 3001 Woodland Ave
- Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve - 4000 E Skyline Parkway
- Kingsbury Creek Trail - Dead end of Waseca Street
- Lakewalk - Canal Park to Brighton Beach
- Lester Park Trail - 60th Ave East and Superior Street
- Lincoln Park Trail - Lincoln Park Drive and West 3rd Street
- Magney-Snively Trail - 1/4 mi west 100 Ave West and Skyline Parkway
- Park Point Trail - end of Minnesota Ave
- Piedmont Trail - Adirondack and Hutchinson Rd
- Western Waterfront Trail - 7300 block off Grand Ave/Pulaski St

Mountain Biking in Duluth

Mountain biking in Duluth is a fun and challenging adventure. We currently have 30 miles of single-track biking in Duluth with trails located at Piedmont, Hartley Park, Brewer Park, Spirit Mountain, and Lester Park. Mont du Lac Recreation Area also has mountain bike trails. To download a mountain bike trail map go to the COGGS (Cyclists of Gitchee Gummi Shores) website at <http://www.coggs.com/trails.php>

Skateboard Park at Wheeler Field Athletic Complex

The skateboard park is open for use 7 days a week, weather permitting, until 10 pm.

Skateboarders, in-line skaters, and bikers are all welcome. Indoor vending machines and bathrooms are available. Deck observation and seating area are also available.

Location: The skateboard park: 35th Avenue West and Grand Avenue. Skate ramps are also located at Gary New Duluth, Keene Creek Park, Midtown Park, and the Depot parking lot.

Disc Golf Course

People wanting to play disc golf can use the nine basket course at Miller Creek Disc Golf Course by Lake Superior College (2101 Trinity Rd) and a nine basket course at the Morgan Park Community Recreation Center (1242 88th Ave W).

Playgrounds

Bayfront Festival Park / Playfront Playground--- South 5th Ave W & RR St
Blackmer --- Beverly St & 84th Ave W
Cascade --- 6th St & 1st Ave W
Central Hillside --- Lake Ave & 4th St
Chester Bowl --- 1800 E Skyline Parkway
Duluth Heights --- 33 W Mulberry St
Endion --- 1602 E 2nd St
Fairmont --- 72nd Ave W & Grand
Fond du Lac --- 131st Ave W & 5th St
Franklin --- 12th St & Minnesota Ave
Grant --- 901 E 11th St
Grosvenor Square --- Pitt & 49th Ave E
Harrison --- 3002 W 3rd St
Hillside Sport Center --- 408 E 8th St
Irving --- 20 S 57th Ave W
Keene Creek --- Bristol St & 63rd Ave W
Lafayette --- 3026 Minnesota Ave
Lester --- 61st Ave E & Superior St
Lilliput --- 315 E 5th St
Lincoln --- 25th Ave W & 5th St
Memorial --- 5315 Grand Ave
Merritt --- 4017 W 7th St
Morgan Park --- 1242-88th Ave W
Norton Park --- Coleman & 81st Ave W
Observation --- 914 W 3rd St
Park Point --- 45th St & Minnesota Ave
Piedmont --- 2302 W 23rd St
Portland Square --- 4th St & 10th Ave E
Portman --- 4601 McCulloch St
Riverside --- 55 Cato St
Washington Square --- Superior St & 43rd Ave E
Wheeler Field --- 35th Ave W & Grand Ave
Woodland --- 3211 Allendale Ave

Parks and Recreation can provide additional information concerning recreational activities, maps, and updated schedules for special activities by going to our website at www.duluthmn.gov/parks Where listed, please use the phone numbers or call the Parks and Recreation office at 218-730-4300.

Enjoy our fantastic parks, playgrounds, and outdoor spaces.